

## Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 75

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**Introduced by Assembly Members V. Manuel Perez and Ammiano**  
(Principal coauthor: Senator Padilla)  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Arambula, Block, Caballero,**  
**Conway, Coto, De La Torre, and Swanson)**

May 19, 2009

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 75—Relative to promotores and community health workers.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 75, as introduced, V. Manuel Perez. Promotores and community health workers.

This measure would recognize the pioneering work of promotores and community health workers in delivering vital and cost-effective health care services in communities throughout California and declare October 2009 as California Promotores Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The delivery of health care is often constrained by  
2 issues of access and outreach to individuals and their families; and  
3 WHEREAS, Barriers to accessing quality health care and mental  
4 health care services include financial barriers, being uninsured or  
5 underinsured, geography or residing in medically underserved  
6 communities, fragmentation of health care services, poor outreach  
7 and education to vulnerable communities, language barriers, and  
8 a lack of diversity and cultural competency in the health care  
9 workforce; and

1 WHEREAS, According to the California Health Care  
2 Foundation's 2008 publication titled "Snapshot: California's  
3 Uninsured," approximately 6,600,000 Californians are uninsured.  
4 Low-income families earning less than \$25,000 per year, younger  
5 people under 34 years of age, and people of color are most likely  
6 to be uninsured; and

7 WHEREAS, For hundreds of years, promotores and community  
8 health workers have been fighting the effects of catastrophic  
9 epidemics, inequalities, and injustices; and

10 WHEREAS, Promotores, also known as community health  
11 workers, peer leaders, or health advocates, serve as cultural brokers  
12 who provide a unique understanding of the cultures they serve.  
13 They serve as a bridge between the community and the public  
14 health care delivery system and provide education and prevention  
15 information and resources in a manner that is culturally and  
16 linguistically appropriate to the community's individuals and  
17 families. As the authentic voice of their community, promotores  
18 also connect governments and policymakers to people living within  
19 that community; and

20 WHEREAS, Promotores are volunteer, stipend, paid, and  
21 independent contractors who may be associated with city and  
22 county health and human services and mental health agencies,  
23 nonprofit community-based organizations, health clinics, hospitals,  
24 and community centers. By training and integrating active  
25 community members to promote health and wellness, promotores  
26 have demonstrated a significant level of cost-effectiveness in  
27 delivering health care education and services, particularly in  
28 maternal and child health and chronic diseases, including, but not  
29 limited to, asthma, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and  
30 HIV/AIDS; and

31 WHEREAS, According to the federal Centers for Disease  
32 Control and Prevention, integrating promotores and community  
33 health workers into health programs has been associated with  
34 improvements in access to health care, prenatal care, pregnancy  
35 and birth outcomes, client health status, health- and  
36 screening-related behaviors, and reduced health care costs; and

37 WHEREAS, Recently, in the present time of mounting  
38 economic, political, and social challenges, promotores, both paid  
39 and volunteer, provide aid and support to those most in need at  
40 clinics, churches, workplaces, schools, parks, hospitals, farm fields,

1 and mostly at home in the neighborhoods where they live and raise  
2 their own families; and

3 WHEREAS, In California, Vision y Compromiso has brought  
4 together thousands of individuals and hundreds of organizations  
5 united as one voice behind a vision of a dignified and healthy life  
6 for all, Hacia Una Vida Digna y Sana, and while growing in  
7 leadership and experience, and despite their heartfelt service and  
8 documented successes, promotores and community health workers  
9 receive little recognition for their work and often face serious  
10 challenges accessing educational and employment training  
11 opportunities; now, therefore, be it

12 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
13 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California  
14 formally endorses the pioneering work of promotores and duly  
15 recognizes the leadership provided by Vision y Compromiso, for  
16 fostering this initiative to build greater community leadership and  
17 capacity; and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That the Legislature also duly recognizes the  
19 leadership provided by regional coordinators, staff, board members,  
20 and advisors of organizations, for their dedication to and  
21 collaboration with promotores and community health workers  
22 across California; and be it further

23 *Resolved*, That the Legislature supports the continuing effort  
24 by promotores to increase their presence and support for the  
25 well-being of California communities; and be it further

26 *Resolved*, That the Legislature considers policies and programs  
27 that will enhance the status of promotores in the delivery of health  
28 care, encourage health delivery systems to integrate promotores  
29 where appropriate, and provide incentives and funding for staff,  
30 where appropriate, to encourage their program development and  
31 integration, given the changing demographics and health care needs  
32 of California in the 21st century; and be it further

33 *Resolved*, That the Legislature declares October 2009 as  
34 California Promotores Month in order to raise awareness of the  
35 important contributions of promotores and community health  
36 workers; and be it further

37 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
38 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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